

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

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INTERIM PERMITTEE FUNCTIONS

The interim permit authorizes the holder only to practice nursing under the direct supervision of a registered nurse and to perform nursing functions taught in the permittee's basic nursing program. The regulation concerning this was less specific before 1985, at which time the Board found that, contrary to the intent of the original legislation, some permittees were accepting assignments to function as though already licensed. The regulation now reads:

"A permittee shall practice under the direct supervision of a registered nurse who shall be present and available on the patient care unit during all the time the permittee is rendering professional services. The supervising registered nurse may delegate to the permittee any function taught in the permittee's basic nursing program which, in the judgment of the supervising registered nurse, the permittee is capable of performing." [CCR 1414(c)]

The section clearly sets forth the conditions of interim permittee practice as follows:

- An RN directly supervises the interim permittee.
- The supervising RN is present and available on the patient care unit during all the time the permittee is rendering professional services.
- The supervising RN delegates to the permittee only functions for which the permittee has learned theory and acquired clinical practice either through a basic nursing program or additional planned learning experiences in the practice setting, and has demonstrated clinical competence. Nursing management has ultimate and on-going responsibility for establishing the permittee's competence prior to assigning the permittee to a staff RN for supervision.
- The supervising RN judges that the permittee is capable of performing the function before delegating it.

Please note that the supervisor must be a RN, not an L.V.N.; and that the RN supervisor must be on the patient care unit with the interim permittee, not simply in the same building.

Responsibility for meeting these conditions belongs to the director of nursing, the supervising RN, and the permittee. It has been found that assigning a permittee to a specific RN supervisor and giving both persons the same work schedule is helpful to the permittee and promotes compliance with the law.

Directors of nursing and supervisors should be aware that the practice of permittees is limited because permittees have not evidenced minimum nursing competence by passing the licensing examination. Assigning the permittee to practice under conditions other than those specified in the regulation may endanger patients, and registered nurses who make the assignment may be subjecting their own licenses to board disciplinary action.

CCR Sec 1414(b) defines the time limits for interim permits:

"An interim permit is not renewable and is in effect to the expiration date or until the results of that examination are mailed, at which time it becomes null and void."